



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE AND TRADE**

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Room 519 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Trade was called to order by **Representative Joseph Graves**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Graves, Sheppard, Callton, Jenkins, Johnson, Rendon, Somerville, Hughes, Barrett, Garcia, Glenn, Leutheuser, Schor, Townsend, Byrd, Garrett, Love and Moss.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Geiss.

Representative Shepard moved to adopt the minutes from the **October 6, 2015**, meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

On May 12, 2015, Chairman Graves appointed Vice-Chair Sheppard (Chair), Representatives Hughes and Byrd as members of the Bi-Partisan Michigan Port Traffic Workgroup to study trade imports in Michigan.

Chair Graves opened the floor for a presentation by **Vice-Chair Sheppard**, on "Increasing Port Traffic for Michigan's Imports and Exports".

Representative Sheppard, gave an overview of the current issues, funding difficulties, infrastructure improvements needed, and the status of the Detroit and Monroe Port systems. Handouts were submitted to the committee members. Questions and discussion followed.

Chair Graves opened the floor for a presentation from **Representative Byrd**.

Representative Byrd introduced **Kyle Burleson**, Deputy Director of the Wayne County Port Authority. **Kyle Burleson** gave an overview of what improvements and financial investments need to be made to modernize the Wayne County Port Authority. As well as the need for the legislature to amend the Port Authority Act of 1979. A handout was submitted to the committee. Questions and discussion followed.

Chair Graves opened the floor for a presentation from **Representative Hughes**.

Representative Hughes gave an overview of the infrastructure improvements needed, status, public-private partnership, and what improvements need to be made for the Port of Muskegon to be

competitive with other states who have made greater investments in their ports. A handout was submitted to the committee. Questions and discussion followed.

Jeremy Hedges, representing the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Talent and Economic Development, testified addressing some of the infrastructure needs of Michigan's ports, the importance of capitalizing on the opportunities to market Michigan ports, and what legislative changes are needed to update Michigan's port strategies.

Representative Moss moved to excuse Representative Geiss from the committee. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Representative Joseph Graves, Chair
House Standing Committee on Commerce and Trade
Malika Abdul-Basir
Committee Clerk
517-373-7256
1 Hour and 18 Minutes